# Field/Trip Report

**Name/s of reporter/s: Aberra Adie**

**Name/s of traveler/s**: Aberra Adie

**Dates and place of travel: 4-8 Feb 2014 to Lemo**

**Purpose/objective of the travel:**

* To plant forages for farmers who practice SSI using treadle/hip and rope & washer pumps at Lemo and Hangacha woredas respectively.
* To liaise with the woreda livestock officers and Areka research center for partners’ engagement in the small scale irrigated fodder development research.

**Key people contacted (contact details):** Ato Workneh Dubale (Africa RISING Lemo site coordinator), Ato Woldemariam Biramo (Lemo Livestock office process owner), Dr. Melesse Yilma (Team leader, Livestock case team, Areka) Ato Tamrat (Lemo woreda Office of Agriculture), Farmers in Lemo and Hangacha, Ato Nigusie Kifle (Hangacha woreda Livestock office process owner).

**Discussion/observation/insights:**

1. **Forage planting**

Intercropping of Oats and Vetch, both annual forages, the seeds obtained from Holleta Agricultural Research Center for free have been planted in the farmers of 14 farmers (7 in Lemo and 7 in Hangacha woreda). The intension of the fodder planting is to establish fast growing annual forages using small scale irrigation during the current dry season and feed to small number of sheep to be sold possibly during the upcoming Ethiopian Holidays. The hypothesis is that farmers’ income will be increased by diversifying irrigated crop options with the inclusion of fodder and small ruminant fattening. There are two types of water lifting structures: Treadle/hip pumps at Lemo and Rope & Washer pumps at Hangacha woreda. Conducting the research at the two woredas will also enable comparison of the pump efficiency which will be testified by the farmers’ behavior towards the pumps and productivity of the forages.

Farmers at Hangacha have past irrigation experiences with Food for Hungry International (FHI) project and as such have better awareness about the use of irrigation for horticultural crops. As a result of this, they all prepared their plots for forage production ahead of time which eased the planting process. In contrast, farmers at Lemo were less prepared and plot preparations took place after I have arrived at the site despite prior notice to both sites through the site coordinator.

Farmers are currently busy with the seasonal campaign for watershed management (soil and water conservation work) launched by the government since the past two years. Due to this, planting of the forages was done by using the time when farmers and development workers were back from the campaign work.

1. **Discussion with Woreda Livestock Officers and Areka research center staff**

Telephone conversation with Ato Woldemarim of the Lemo woreda Livestock office has been made to explain the forage planting activity. The intention was to take Ato Woldemariam to the field where the forages were being planted but it wasn’t possible as he was busy with the organization of the watershed development campaign work in sites different from Upper Gana and Jawe. However, Ato Tamirat from the Lemo woreda office of agriculture, because he was assigned to Jawe and Gana was able to attend to the forage planting process which was being done in the same Kebeles.

In Hangacha, Ato Niguse Kifle, the Livestock Office process owner was briefed about the fodder trial with 7 interested farmers in the woreda and to share experiences between the Lemo and Hangacha farmers regarding SSI. Niguse who had prior information about the project from Workneh, the Africa Rising site coordinator, expressed his willingness to collaborate and spent the whole day of Feb 7 facilitating and doing the planting of forages in the farms of 7 farmers at Karakicho kebele of Hangacha woreda.

Dr. Melesse Yilma of the Areka Research Center was met at Soddo to brief the current status of the fodder intervention activity at Lemo and Hangacha and discussed the possibility of assigning staff time from Areka to follow up and report the research processes and findings. He was also told that the grand MoU with SARI is underway and specific research agreement can be signed with Areka pertaining to the SSI fodder development. Dr. Melesse agreed with the initiative and expressed his willingness to assign staff time. He actually mentioned that he has staff with diverse expertise (forage, nutrition, and breeding) and that all the necessary expertise can be utilized through one focal person for intensive follow up.

**Key decisions and outcome/s:**

List of farmers planting forages and areas planted at Lemo and Hangacha woredas

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ser.  No. | Woreda | Kebele | Name of farmer | Forge planted | Area planted  (m2) | Date  planted |
| 1 | Lemo | Upper Gana | Workneh Sode | Oat Vetch | 25 | 6 Feb 14 |
| 2 | Lemo | Upper Gana | Tadege Kobe | Oat Vetch | 25 | 5 Feb 14 |
| 3 | Lemo | Upper Gana | Tefera Anito | Oat Vetch | 25 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 4 | Lemo | Upper Gana | Eshetu Alaro | Oat Vetch | 25 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 5 | Lemo | Jawe | Adinew Ayele | Oat Vetch | 26.25 | 6 Feb 14 |
| 6 | Lemo | Jawe | Arega Helalo | Oat Vetch | 25 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 7 | Lemo | Jawe | Birhanu Tirkaso | Oat Vetch | 25 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 8 | Hangacha | Karakicho | Abebech Gashe | Oat Vetch | 28 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 9 | Hangacha | Karakicho | Demekech Malore | Oat Vetch | 30 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 10 | Hangacha | Karakicho | Matios Geramo | Oat Vetch | 28.2 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 11 | Hangacha | Karakicho | Abose Gichamo | Oat Vetch | 31 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 12 | Hangacha | Karakicho | Abebech Mekore | Oat Vetch | 30 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 13 | Hangacha | Karakicho | Tadese Malkato | Oat Vetch | 30 | 7 Feb 14 |
| 14 | Hangacha | Karakicho | Alemu Shagado | Oat Vetch | 27 | 7 Feb 14 |

Note: Highlighted with yellow are women led household farmers

Verbal agreement reached with Areka Livestock case team leader to partner in the fodder development research pending the finalization of MoU with SARI and research agreement with Areka

**A way forward/ recommendations/suggestions (if any ):** Key suggestions that came out from the discussion include the following:

1. Finalize research protocol and develop research agreement with Areka research center
2. Additional fodder options like planting of Napier and Desho grasses on farm margins/peripheries - Dr. Melesse of Areka says they have the materials in their research center and can be accessed by farmers at Lemo and Hangacha
3. Assessing the availability and types of traditional feed options (residues, hay, Ensete, etc. and other feed supplements with the farmers who planted the forages and intend to fatten sheep
4. Assessing sheep markets – both to buy sheep for fattening and sell after fattening – Ato Bereket of SARI says Doyogana (adjacent to Hangacha) is the best market where the local breed called “Doyogana” is widely found
5. Assess small scale feed choppers - especially for crop residues in order to feed sheep
6. Demonstrate and ensure proper feeding trough for the sheep
7. Experience sharing visits of Lemo farmers to Hangacha farmers

|  |
| --- |
| **Case story:** *Was there anything that struck you as really interesting during the trip? If so, you are encouraged to briefly describe it here (with pictures if possible) so that we can share these insights with the rest of the Africa RISING team and beyond.*  *Women see the SSI fodder development to fatten small ruminants as potential business which can be affordable with the capacity of women while men are engaged in large scale farming activities and distant jobs. Not only women led households but wives of men led households can also engage in such ‘small scale’ activities as leaders and resource managers of the activities*  **C:\Users\aadie\Desktop\IMG_1028.JPG**  Figure 1: A woman household head pulling water by a rope and washer pump at Karakicho, Hangacha woreda  C:\Users\aadie\Desktop\IMG_1042.JPG  Figure 2: A woman household head planting forages at her backyard at Karakicho, Hangacha woreda  C:\Users\aadie\Desktop\IMG_0908.JPG  Figure 3: Young boys pedaling on the treadle pump to pull water from shallow well at Upper Gana, Lemo woreda |